

Appl. No.: 10/772,995
Amdt. dated December 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An elastomeric expansion joint comprising:
at least one first substrate;
at least one second substrate;
fabric layers arranged between the first and the second substrates, defining a tubular section, wherein:

the tubular section comprises:

first and second end portions,
a moveable central region, and
first and second intersection portions which are respectively defined between each of the end portions and the central region, and

the intersection portions and the end portions define a reinforcement section;
a first reinforcement wiring positioned in the reinforcement section;
a second reinforcement wiring positioned between the first and second substrates in the intersection portions; and

at least one wiring support member positioned between the first and the second substrates, wherein the wiring support member:

is positioned in the reinforcement section,
extends at least partially around a central axis of the tubular section, and
supports at least the first reinforcement wiring along its length,

wherein the wiring support member comprises a first wiring support member, the first wiring support member comprises a base and retention walls, the retention walls define a retention region therebetween, and the first reinforcement wiring is positioned in the retention region, the base of the first wiring support member is positioned parallel to the first and second substrates, with the retention region facing the second substrate, the wiring support member supports a plurality of overlapping layers of the first reinforcement wiring, the plurality of layers of the first reinforcement wiring is arranged in the retention region up to terminuses of the retention walls, and wherein second wiring support members are respectively positioned in the

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first and second intersection portions, each of the second wiring support members comprises retention walls defining a retention region therebetween, with the second reinforcement wiring positioned in the retention regions of the second wiring support members, and for each of the second wiring support members, the retention walls of the second wiring support member are arched over the retention region so that the retention region is closed.

Claims 2-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim [[8]] 1, wherein each of the second wiring support members is substantially tubular.

10. (original) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 9, wherein at least one fabric layer envelopes the second reinforcement wiring.

11. (original) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 10, wherein the first and second wiring support members are made of a rigid material.

12. (original) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 10, wherein the first and second wiring support members are made of a metallic material.

13. (original) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 12, wherein there are at least two first wiring support members and two second wiring support members.

14. (original) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 13, wherein the first and second reinforcement wirings are composed of flexible metal wires.

15. (original) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 1, wherein the end portions respectively end in retaining rings.

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16. (original) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 1, wherein the first and the second substrates are made of a polymeric material.

17. (original) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 1, wherein a polytetrafluoroethylene layer is provided overlapping a surface of the second substrate and a surface of the first substrate.

Claims 18-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 1, wherein the wiring support member comprises:

a substantially annular body having retention walls for at least partially facilitating lengthwise winding of the reinforcement wiring around the wiring support member.

26. (previously presented) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 25, wherein the annular body further comprises a base from which the retention walls extend radially outward, wherein a retention region is at least partially defined between the retention walls, and the retention region is for receiving the reinforcement wiring.

27. (previously presented) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 26, wherein a cross-section of the wiring support member is substantially U-shaped, with the cross-section being taken along a plane which is parallel to and intersects an axis which the wiring support member extends around.

28. (previously presented) An elastomeric expansion joint according to claim 1, wherein the wiring support member is positioned entirely within the reinforcement sections such that the wiring support member supports the first reinforcement wiring without preventing movement of the moveable central region.